

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AGRE-00
DODE-00 AID-05 /056 W
-----062309Z 096786 /73

R 062200Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9547

DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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DEPARTMENT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION-CAMPAIGN BEGINS ON SCHEDULE

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING DAILY REPORTS FROM BELL INSTRUCTOR PILOT DAN CARSON, NOW WORKING IN CULIACAN ON GOM ERADICATION EFFORT. CARSON REPORTED JANUARY 4 THAT SEVERAL HELICOPTERS WERE LAUNCHED AROUND 0800 JAN 3 AND PERFORMED SEVERAL HOURS OF SPRAY MISSIONS. CARSON ADDED THAT MEXICAN ZONE COORDINATOR, CARLOS AGUILAR-GARZA, WAS SEVERELY UPSET WITH SEVERAL PILOTS WHO DID NOT REPORT TO CULIACAN UNTIL MORNING OF JANUARY 3 INSTEAD OF ARRIVING BY COB JANUARY 1 AS SCHEDULED. COORDINATOR REPORTEDLY DRESSED THEM DOWN, ADDING THAT HE WAS TEMPTED TO PLACE THEM UNDER ARREST.

2. CARSON AND MEXICAN SPRAY PILOT ZOLA TELEPHONED EMBASSY AVIATION ADVISOR EVENING JANUARY 5 AND REPORTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 150 POPPY FIELDS WERE SPRAYED JANUARY 4 AND ANOTHER 100 JANUARY 5. CARSON (WHO FREQUENTLY
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FLIES WITH MEXICAN SPRAY PILOTS TO OBSERVE PROFICIENCY) AND ZOLA(ONE OF THE FIRST, AND NOW AMONG THE MOST PROFICIENT, MEXICAN SPRAY PILOTS) HAD BEEN FLYING IN DIFFERENT AREAS BUT BOTH REPORTED THAT THE FIELDS BEING LOCATED WERE VERY IMMATURE. THEY EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT ERADICATION TEAMS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM KEEPING AHEAD OF PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: MISSION STAFF HAS BEEN OF OPINION THAT EXPANSION OF GOM ERADICATION EFFORT TO VIRTUALLY YEAR-ROUND CAMPAIGN WOULD RESULT IN FEWER ILLICIT CROPS BEING READY FOR DESTRUCTION AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT AND THAT CRISIS ATMOSPHERE THAT EXISTED IN JANUARY 1976 WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. THE ABOVE REPORTS WOULD CONFIRM THAT TREND. HOWEVER, ABOVE OBSERVATIONS ARE BASED ON ONLY THREE DAYS' EXPERIENCE IN RELATIVELY SMALL AREAS AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS DEFINITIVE READING OF PRESENT POPPY ERADICATION PROBLEM THROUGHOUT MEXICO. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT SIGNIFICANT THAT ERADICATION PROGRAM BEGAN RIGHT ON SCHEDULE AND TAKE THIS AS INDICATION THAT NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL MEANS BUSINESS.

JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: SNAR, MX, (CARSON, DAN)
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